

DRAFT
North Hampton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2018

Administrative:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call:

Attendance included Lisa Wilson (Chair), Kathy Grant (Vice Chair), Lauri Etela, Shep Kroner, Allyson Ryder (Alternate) and Philip Thayer.

Approval of Minutes:

After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Lauri Etela to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried with a unanimous vote, with Phil Thayer abstaining.***

New Business:

Vote to Unseal the Minutes for the November 28, 2017 and the Minutes of the December 7, 2017

Non-Public Sessions: *A motion was made by Allyson Ryder, duly seconded by Philip Thayer, to unseal the minutes of the November 28, 2017 and December 7, 2017 minutes to discuss the acquisition of land by donation. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

Approve thank-you note for Mrs. Higginson's generous donation of land to town of North Hampton:

After some discussion and corrections, ***a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Shep Kroner, to have Lisa Wilson send the thank- you note and card on behalf of the Conservation Commission and Select Board to Mrs. Higginson for donation of land. Motion carried.***

Review of Discretionary Easement Renewal Application: A renewal application was submitted by Helmut and Heide Fritz for two improved parcels situated at Tax Map 17, Lot 107-001 and Tax Map 17, Lot 107-002. The original easement was granted in 1983, recorded in Book 2467, Page 0502 at Rockingham County Registry of Deeds. The original did not specify a revision for automatic renewal and no renewals were found at the Registry or in the Town files. The original easement was to be renewed every ten years. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Shep Kroner, to have the Chair draft a letter to the Select Board to recommend approval of the discretionary easements pursuant to RSA 79-C:1 and RSA 79-C3, 2c to serve the public interest for the scenic enjoyment by the general public from North Road. Discretionary easements on these two lots will help protect North Brook which runs directly into Little River. Preservation of this land will help fulfill the state and Town's adopted policies to protect rural land and North Hampton's water resources.*** The letter should include mention of the 50' right of way that encumbers the property. The Commission also recommends that the Select Board and/or Tax Assessor adopt a procedure to help ensure that any discretionary easements are reviewed every ten years pursuant to RSA-79.
The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update:

Richard Luff notified the Chair that Sagamore Golf Inc. installed the new conservation signs. SELT will inspect the new signage at Forest Hills Farm.

Discussion of Conservation Commission Procedures and Policies Correspondence:

Lisa Wilson reported that she is still working on the Conservation Commission Policies and Procedures document and should have a draft by the March meeting.

Correspondence:

Email dated January 29, 2018 from Laura Diemer, *Environmental Monitoring Lead for FB*

Environmental Associates. Laura Diemer provided the 2017 Water Quality Report for the BCH25 water monitoring investigation to report possible sewage contamination from either a failed septic system or a failed sewer line located along Huckleberry Lane in Hampton. Officials from the Town of Hampton said they would investigate the source of the pollution.

Other Business:

Community Outreach: Discussion of Distributing Trail Maps

Allyson Ryder presented a design for additional North Hampton Conservation Land Trail Maps. Philip Thayer suggested a Volunteer Day to enlist volunteers to help clean up the trails. A plan will be discussed at the March 13th meeting.

Payment of Invoices from Current Use Fund for Approved Services and Related Expenses for the Acquisition of Land by Donation. The Conservation Commission authorized up to \$10,000 for legal fees and closing costs associated with the Higginson donation of conservation land from the Conservation Commission Current Use fund. These expenditures will have no impact on the tax rate because the funds have already been set aside for the acquisition of conservation land from the Current Use Fund.

During the November 28, 2017 Non-Public meeting of the Conservation Commission, the Commission authorized expenditures for legal fees up to \$5000, and for closing costs up to \$5000. Michele Peckham submitted an invoice for \$5,072.91 for legal fees and closing costs associated with the transaction. Lisa Wilson requested \$47.50 for reimbursement for overnight mail sent to Wendy Higgins for signatures. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Philip Thayer, duly seconded by Allyson Ryder, to reimburse Lisa Wilson \$47.50 for postal expenses. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.***

Roundtable Meeting of Conservation Commissions:

Kathy Grant reported that she attended the Roundtable Meeting of local Conservation Commissions on February 12, 2018 in Hampton. Faye Rubin of GRANIT Mapping of UNH gave a presentation on mapping.

Monitoring Conservation Land: Phil Thayer reported that there appears to be a building on what appears to be conservation land on Map 6. The Commission needs to determine the conservation boundary and investigate further.

Next Newsletter Topic: Educating the public about the importance of maintaining septic systems should be the next newsletter topic. Proper septic maintenance is important to help protect the town's water resources and property owners' resources. Private septic systems are a far less costly alternative than maintaining a town-wide sewer system, especially in view of Hampton's projected cost to taxpayers for a \$41,000,000 sewer system upgrade and repairs of leaking/damaged sewer lines.

Non-Public Session:

A motion was made by Allyson Ryder, (pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d) Consideration of the acquisition of or sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.)

duly seconded by Philip Thayer, to enter into a Non-Public Session at 8:50 PM of land. Lisa Wilson took the Roll Call. ***A motion was made by Allyson Ryder to leave the Non-Public Session at 9:03 p.m., duly seconded by Philip Thayer.*** Motion carried. ***A motion was made to seal the minutes by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Lauri Etela. The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote taken by the Chair.***

There being no further business to discuss, ***a motion was made by Philip Thayer, duly seconded by Allyson Ryder, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.*** The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Moore

Recording Secretary

"These minutes were prepared by the Recording Secretary within five (5) business days as required by NH RSA 2,11. They will not be finalized until approved by the majority vote by the Conservation Commission".